

Appendix A7 - Online Safety Policy Statement

At Somerset Bridge Primary School, we want every user to be safe, confident and supported when using technology - whether learning in school, at home, or in the wider community. Online safety is part of safeguarding and wellbeing. It is not "just an IT issue": it is about people, relationships, behaviour, learning, and protection.

Our online safety strategy is built around four outcomes-focused areas that strengthen day-to-day practice:

- Leadership and policy that make expectations clear*
- Education that builds skills, resilience and positive behaviour*
- Technology that protects users and supports safe learning*
- Impact review that proves what's working and what we will improve*

Leadership and policy: clarity, consistency and accountability

- When leadership is strong, online safety becomes part of "how we do things here"—not a one-off initiative.*

Clear responsibilities

- We make sure roles are defined and understood across senior leaders, the Designated Safety Lead, an Online Safety Lead, governors/trustees and technical staff/providers. This ensures safeguarding decisions and technical safeguards work together.*
- What this improves: decisions are quicker, concerns are escalated correctly, and actions don't get "lost" between teams.*
- Benefit for users: children and adults get safer, more consistent support.*

A joined-up Online Safety Group

- We involve the right voices—leaders, staff, governors, and (where appropriate) learners and families—to keep online safety responsive to real experiences and emerging risks.*
- What this improves: shared ownership and a whole-school approach.*
- Benefit for users: safer practice is reinforced across school and home.*

A policy that is understood and used

- Our online safety policy is aligned with safeguarding expectations and linked to related policies so that staff and families can see one clear, consistent approach.*
- What this improves: fewer grey areas and more confident decision-making.*
- Benefit for users: clear boundaries and predictable responses.*

Acceptable use expectations that protect everyone

- We set out simple, age-appropriate expectations for learners and clear professional expectations for staff, so everyone understands what safe and respectful use looks like.*
- What this improves: behaviour, consistency, and fairness.*
- Benefit for users: safer online spaces and fewer harmful incidents.*

Reporting and responding that leads to action

- We promote a culture where people feel able to speak up, and we respond consistently, recording concerns, acting promptly, and learning from patterns and new risks.*

- *What this improves: early identification and effective safeguarding intervention.*
- *Benefit for users: children get help sooner; everyone feels listened to and protected.*

Education: confident learners and informed adults

- *We teach online safety to build knowledge, skills, attitudes and resilience—so learners can enjoy the benefits of technology while managing risks.*

Planned learning for learners

- *Online safety education is progressive, inclusive and revisited regularly. We use learner voice to shape what we teach and to keep it relevant.*
- *What this improves: safer choices, healthier online behaviour, and confident help-seeking.*
- *Benefit for users: learners become better prepared for real-life online challenges.*

Staff training that supports safeguarding practice

- *All staff receive induction and ongoing updates so they can spot concerns, respond appropriately, and model safe practice. Key roles receive enhanced training to lead and make informed decisions.*
- *What this improves: confidence and consistency across the workforce.*
- *Benefit for users: concerns are handled calmly, correctly and promptly.*

Governors trained to provide challenge and support

- *Governors/trustees understand their duties and can ask the right questions about policy, training, curriculum, filtering/monitoring, and cyber security.*
- *What this improves: accountability and sustained improvement.*
- *Benefit for users: online safety stays a priority over time, not just after incidents.*

Strong partnerships with families and agencies

- *We communicate practical guidance to families and work with relevant partners. We also share effective practice beyond our school where it supports safer communities.*
- *What this improves: joined-up messages and earlier support.*
- *Benefit for users: children experience consistent expectations across school and home.*

Technology: protection that enables learning

- *We use proportionate technical controls to reduce exposure to harm while supporting teaching and learning.*

Effective filtering

- *Filtering reduces the risk of access to harmful and illegal content and is reviewed to ensure it stays fit for purpose.*
- *Benefit for users: safer browsing and research.*

Safeguarding-led monitoring

- *Monitoring helps identify concerns early and supports timely intervention, handled with appropriate governance and data protection.*
- *Benefit for users: timely intervention when risk is emerging.*

Secure systems and cyber resilience

- *We protect networks, devices and accounts, and we prepare for threats like phishing and ransomware—so learning is not disrupted and users are protected.*
- *Benefit for users: safer services, fewer incidents, faster recovery.*

Data protection that builds trust

- *We handle personal and sensitive information carefully and lawfully, with clear processes and accountability.*
- *Benefit for users: privacy is respected and risks from misuse are reduced.*

Safe day-to-day practice

- *We manage devices consistently (including expectations around personal devices where relevant), apply safeguarding and consent to digital content, and communicate responsibly through our public channels.*
- *Benefit for users: fewer avoidable mistakes and a safer, more responsible digital culture.*

Impact: proving what works and improving what doesn't

- *We regularly review how well our policies and practice are working, what the evidence tells us, and what we will improve next. This keeps our approach current, targeted and effective.*

How to raise a concern or get help

If something online worries you, we want to know.

- *Learners: talk to a trusted adult, your tutor/class teacher, or the safeguarding team.*
- *Parents/carers: contact [DSL name / safeguarding email/phone].*
- *Staff: follow safeguarding procedures and record concerns promptly.*

Our commitment

We will keep strengthening leadership, education, technology and impact review so that technology at [Somerset Bridge Primary School](#) is used safely, respectfully and positively—and so our community can be confident that online safeguarding is robust, consistent, and always improving.

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